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WIB Healthcare Committee
Capital Health – Bellevue Avenue Campus
May 15, 2012—12:30 PM

Present: Scott Clemmensen (Capital Health), Lucille Jones (MCTS), Beverly Mills (Mercer County WIB), Sharon Nemeth (MCTS), Gloria Frederick (WWWE), Bonny Ross (St. Francis)

The minutes from March 20, 2012 were reviewed and approved. They will be placed on the County website at www.mercercounty.org.

Mercer Healthcare Academy Update

Lucille Jones updated on behalf of the Mercer Academy. The 10th graders (16 out of 20 who qualified) went to UMDMJ for final exams; students had to average 75% or above to take their finals in Dynamics of Health. Further, when they graduate, a student can potentially generate up to 9 transferrable college credits. UMDMJ curriculum in Anatomy will be taught by an instructor who has recently been hired.

The Academy is looking forward to receiving 25 students this fall who have been accepted. Because of many requests for presentations that have come from the middle schools, five slots have been held open until these presentations are completed. Lucille further reported that six students are going to the National HOSA Conference on June 19, 2012 in Orlando, Florida and that there are three state officers this year from the Academy. Construction has begun at the Technical School and should continue for the next 18-24 months.

“Experienceship”

Gloria Frederick began the discussion regarding the lack of employment opportunities for LPN graduates. LPN’s are finding their lack of experience in the field to be a major issue. Gloria, Sandy Lopacki and others have met regarding this issue. Hospitals are not currently hiring LPN’s and they are finding more opportunity in assisted living and nursing home facilities.

Gloria is suggesting, through the assistance of the Healthcare Committee, that Mercer start a pilot project by working with long term care and assisted living facilities to develop an “Experienceship” Program. The concept would be that an employee would work for three months in facilities for exposure. Though the concept is not unique (North Jersey has submitted a proposal to LWD) the goal is to get potential employees on board and offer incentives to work with LPN’s. Gloria asked how we can convince 5-6 facilities to pilot? Rutgers is

willing to write a grant for funding; would the Healthcare Committee to willing to host a meeting with 5-6 employers regarding interest in this pilot. Henry J. Austin has agreed to be a training site. Incentives in this proposal may include a duration of 1-2 years where the employee works for six months before becoming employed. In addition to getting hired there are also financial concern as well as transportation and child care issues that many face. The overall goal is to help adults get into the prevailing labor market and would the committee assist with hosting a seminar once we locate potential employers. The Institute for Wonderful Women would continue with the mentoring piece of this project.

Sharon mentioned that RN's are squeezing out LPN's in nursing and long term care facilities and once employed by a hospital they leave. She suggested contacting Waters Edge, Greenwood House, Buckingham, Hamilton Grove, Hamilton Continuing Care and Spring Point as a good start. More opportunities may present when partnering with long term care facilities that are both local and regional.

CVS Program

Sharon updated the CVS Program is now under the leadership of Greg Schwartz as Marsha Lynch is now in Florida. The program will start on May 22, 2012 with 13 high school students receiving 20 hours pre-employment training at the Health Career Center.

Gloria added that the Institute of Wonderful Women saw close to 300 high school students altogether. Ten are in the program but will probably increase to 12. Last year all 10 graduates were placed.

Potential Mercer County CNA Pilot

Sharon and Bev discussed their thoughts on a project that would involve partnering with an agency (or agencies) that would employ CNA's who earn additional certification in dementia, restorative or medical technician areas. Five years ago Mercer was involved in a regional grant application named "Jobs to Careers: Promoting Work-Based Learning for Quality Care." Though the grant was not received, the concept had many valid points which could potentially be developed locally. This would be a summer project.

The WIB Healthcare Committee meets every other month and does not meet in July or August. Since our next meeting would fall in July, the next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at the Bellevue Avenue Campus of Capital Health starting at 12:30 PM and ending 1:45 PM**

Have a safe and happy summer!

